

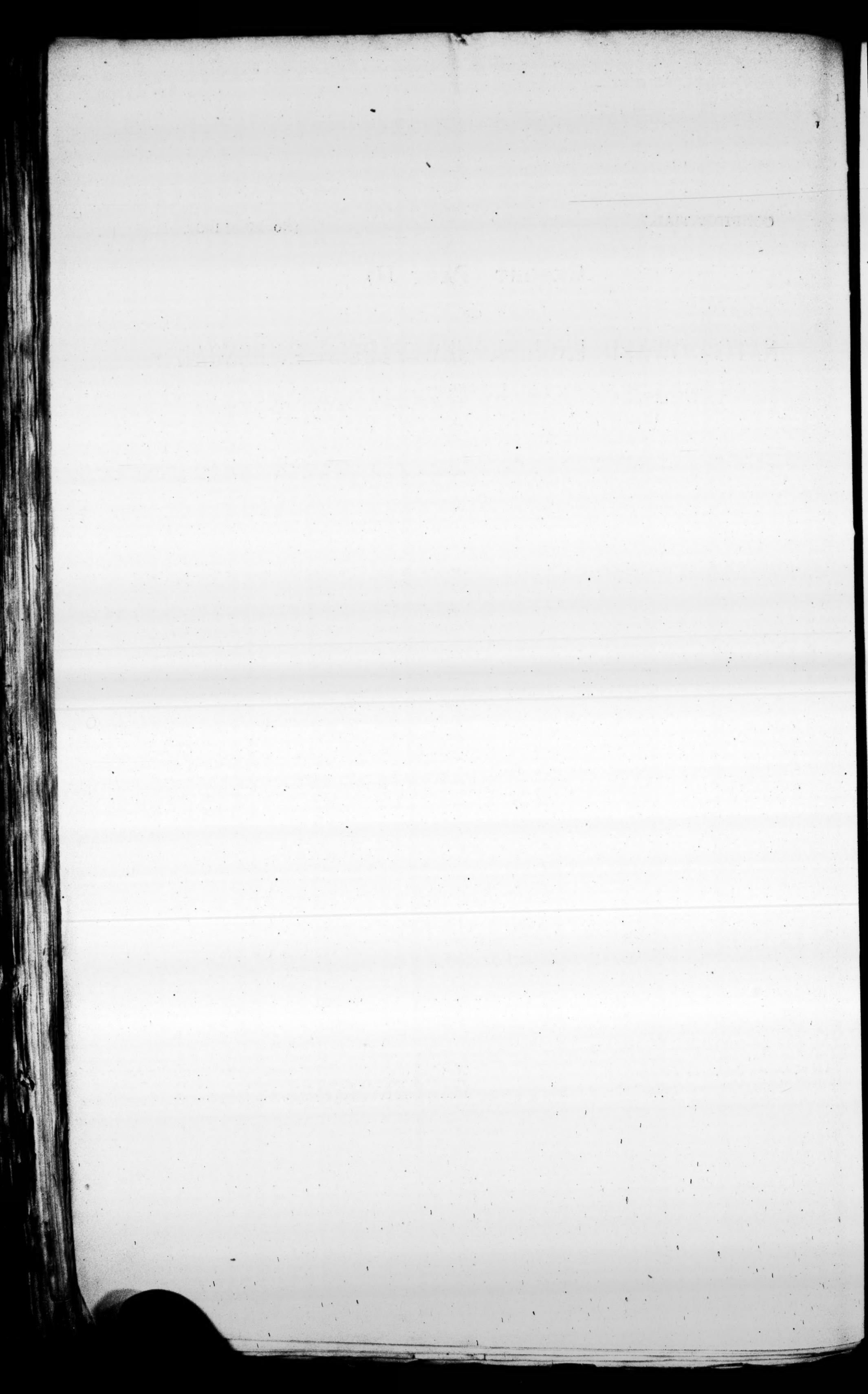
CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 29 of 1902.

REPORT (PART II)
ON
NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL •
FOR THE
Week ending Saturday, 19th July 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

955. The following comments are made by the *Indian Mirror* on the Government Resolution appointing the Police Commission :—

It will be seen at a glance that the constitution of the Commission is unsatisfactory from the popular point of view. It is almost an official Commission, that is, a Commission with certain prejudices and prepossessions. We like the names of Mr. Fraser and Mr. Justice Candy. But they have been officials so long, that even they—good men and true as they are—cannot, or dare not, rise beyond prescribed limits of knowledge or independence. The men whom we should have liked to see on the Commission are not there however, and do hope, our misgivings are erratic, and that we shall see some really solid work done in the way of Police reform. But the heads, as laid down by Government, of the enquiry by the Commission, do not lend themselves seriously to any very grave reform in the essentials of the constitution and the working of the Police Department in India.

956. The following is taken from the *Hindoo Patriot* :—

Ibid.

The appointment of the Maharaja of Darbhanga will give great satisfaction, and his unique experiences as one who earlier in his career had the actual working of the Police brought directly under his notice, will immensely strengthen the hands of the Commission.

957. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* acknowledges its obligations to the *Englishman* for its able articles on the Police Commission, which explains so accurately the

Ibid. difference of opinion between the people of the country and the officials on the point of police inefficiency.

The Police, says the *Patrika*, have no work here, that is to say, their number is far in excess of their work. The Government has let loose “labourers in the field,” but as they have not work enough to keep them employed, they have to create it. The idea of the Police stamping out crime is nauseating to the natives of India. If they are so good, why are they not worshipped instead of being cursed? If they hunt down criminals and protect the innocent, why do the people avoid them? Thus, it is clear, the Police do not hunt down criminals; they hunt at random without discrimination. And if they do so, it is not their fault, for they are only watch-dogs, obedient and subservient to their masters.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

958. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the case in which two pleaders of Arrah were sentenced to 15 months' rigorous imprisonment by the Joint-Magistrate of Arrah, who refused to accept the plea of *alibi* set up by them, although it was strongly supported by several gentlemen of respectability. The Sessions Judge of Tirhoot, however, on appeal, believed the pleaders and at once acquitted them.

Thus, comments the journal, two men, holding high positions in society, were sought to be ruined by a young Magistrate, and yet there is none to find fault with his action or take him to task for his serious blunder. It hopes Babus Doman Lal and Janki Prosad will not let the matter stand here. They should publish the proceedings of their case in pamphlet form and distribute it in England to show to the people there how the law is administered in India by European officials.

959. The *Indian Mirror* is pleased to find that the *Calcutta Weekly Notes* and the *Statesman* are both in favour of the introduction of *vakalatnamas* in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts, and hopes that the matter will at once receive the consideration it deserves.

It next recommends the introduction in the same Courts of Order sheets, the absence of which is at present attended by hardship to the public.

INDIAN MIRROR,
11th July 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
11th July 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
13th July 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th July 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
10th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
11th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
11th July 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th July 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th July 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT
7th July 1902.

960. The *Bengalee* draws attention to the disregard of the pledge given by the Bengal Government to the High Court that the High Court and the Bengal Government. the Subdivisional Officer of Madhipura would be transferred as the result of his action in the case in which Babu Rash Behari Mondle was deprived of his Honorary Magistracy.

961. In a later issue, the same paper writes :—

Ibid. After all, the Subdivisional Officer of Madhipura has been transferred, as we see from yesterday's *Gazette*. But we are bound to say that the pledge given to the High Court has been very tardily carried out. The Government was prompt enough to remove Babu Rash Behary Mondle from the Honorary Magistracy, but was unconscionably slow in removing the Deputy Magistrate from the charge of the subdivision.

962. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the alleged order of the District Magistrate of Faridpur to his Subordinate Magistrates, that they are not to exercise the discretion given by section 388, Civil Procedure Code, of releasing an offender who has been sentenced to pay a fine on his executing a bond, with or without sureties.

"A harsh order which should be withdrawn."

It characterizes the order as irregular and asks for its withdrawal. 963. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* analyses the first letter of reference submitted by Mr. Lee to the High Court in re the Rajshahi case. expressing the opinion that the statements in his second communication were more important than those in the first, and ought to have led the Hon'ble Judges to direct a further enquiry urged by Mr. Lee.

He was, however, disbelieved and the tables were completely turned upon him and the parties on whose behalf he had written to the High Court. He was censured and transferred, and the complainants now find themselves in the position of defendants.

The *Patrika* then comments on the trial of the cases against Pochal, Kobad and Tentul by a Deputy Magistrate subordinate to Mr. Roe, who with Mr. Ryan is, as a matter of fact, himself upon his trial.

Another amusing feature of the matter is this, says the journal. The honour of Mr. Lee is also involved in the result of the case. Indeed, it is only through the case of Pochal that Mr. Lee can exonerate himself from the serious accusation of Mr. Ryan. But he is quietly removed from Rajshahi, while his rival, Mr. Roe, is left the sole master of the situation, to appoint his own subordinate to dispose of the case !

The *Patrika* then goes on to say that the Government should, in the interests of the public, publish the papers relating to this case, as, for instance, Mr. Lee's report to His Honour and Mr. Williams' special report. Though the Government is unwilling to take the people into its confidence, the action taken by His Honour in the case has, however, oozed out. The journal is satisfied that His Honour has been impartial in the distribution of censure, but it says suspension of Mr. Ryan's promotion for six months is a mere joke, for he has absolutely no chance of being promoted within that period.

964. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* hears that the Lady Dufferin Hospital Association of Calcutta have addressed a letter to Mr. Williams, Commissioner of the Bhagalpur Division, The Lady Doctor abduction case. requesting him to take the necessary steps for enhancing the punishment of the accused in the Malda abduction case. It does not think the Commissioner will take any action on this letter, as it serves no good purpose to order a fresh trial of the case, but, on the other hand, it may do much mischief.

(d)—Education.

965. The *Hindoo Patriot* recommends, for Srimati Dinamani Chaudhurani's consideration, the advisability of founding a College Wanted an Agricultural College. in Madhupur for Arts education as well as with special classes for the study of agriculture, which is such a crying want in this country. The neighbourhood of the mining districts would be an additional advantage and special technical classes could, if desired, be opened out.

966. The *Bengalee* understands that not a single student has, since the recent B. Sc. examination. re-opening of the Presidency College, taken admission in the B. Sc. class owing, it is alleged, to the high percentage of failures at the last University examination for that degree.

The complaints against the conduct of that examination are as follows:—

- (1) In the theoretical papers on Honor Chemistry, about 40 marks out of 100 were allotted to questions which could not be answered from the text-books prescribed by the University.
- (2) In the practical paper it was said, in a *Nota bene*, that five hours would be given to answer the questions. As a matter of fact, a little more than four hours' time was allowed.
- (3) In Physics the examiner did not confine his questions in the practical paper to the standard prescribed by the University.
- (4) In the Mineralogy paper, 65 marks out of 200 were allotted to questions outside the prescribed text-books. The marks had to be subsequently redistributed. To add to their troubles, the plucked candidates are not permitted to go back to the B. A. Course and appear at the B. A. Examination after six months' study, as in the case of the students who have been plucked at the B. A. degree examination.

967. The *Indian Mirror* comments as follows on Sir William Lee Warner's "Citizen of India," which has been prescribed for Entrance students in India and Burma:—

Sir William Lee Warner's "Citizen of India."

Those who have looked over the pages of the book are well aware how stiff is its language to a young learner who has begun to read connected sentences only four or five years. Not to speak anything of the thoughts and views contained in the book, the style and diction are sufficient to strike terror into the hearts of a juvenile who has just emerged out of his Middle Course. But as our Universities have willed it so, the innocent students are perforce compelled to resort to cram, and to learn by rote the notes, guides, and catechisms, of which there is such a plentiful supply in the market. Thus the substance is lost, while the shadow only remains. We wonder how Lord Curzon could have omitted to notice such an important consideration when he was pleased to order its introduction.

968. The *Bengalee* has small hope of seeing any beneficial result from the labours of the Universities Commission. The educated community, it says, has

Government and education. become a nuisance to Government. Their demands are increasing with their numbers every year, and Government contemplates with very grave apprehension this increase of distress and of discontent which is as yet vague and without organization, and it is, therefore, anxious, if possible, to find out means to enable it to retrace its steps. But it is too late, the journal remarks, to stop the march of education. It would be the height of unwisdom for Government to try to suppress or even to circumscribe the limits of high education. For any effort in such a direction will not fail to evoke a resistance, the strength of which will be commensurate with the strength of the forces which are sought to be suppressed.

"People therefore think that in view of the complications which the spread of education might eventually lead to, Government is determined to circumscribe the limits of education to an extent which will reduce it to nothing. They know that in Indian Universities there is very considerable room for improvement, but the great majority of the people are, rightly or wrongly, under the impression that the Universities Commission was appointed more for the purpose of devising means to enable the Government to have complete control over the Universities, so that when they are reduced to mere departments under the Government, the latter might proceed more successfully to circumscribe the spread of high education and thus escape from those complications which English education and the spread of English influences have created."

BENGALEE,
7th July 1902.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
10th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
12th July 1902.

969. The *Bengalee* has no hesitation in saying that if the recommendations of the Universities Commission are accepted, the death-knell of high education will be sounded in Bengal, and a shock will be imparted to

The Universities Commission's recommendations.
the progress of the country from which it may never recover. The time has come, it urges, for united action when all sections of the community should sink their differences and combine for a vigorous and strenuous effort to prevent the acceptance by higher authority of the dangerous and revolutionary proposals of the Commission. The effect of the acceptance of these proposals would be to exclude the deserving poor and the great middle class from the benefits of high education. It is now apparently proposed to confine high education to the richer classes. All respectable Brahmins and Kayesthas who, unfortunately for them, are not loaded with a superabundance of the world's goods, must in future abandon the idea of giving their sons the benefit of high English education. Such a boon will be placed beyond their means, and the recommendations of the Universities Commission are admirably calculated to promote this object. Among these recommendations is the establishment of a Central Law College and the abolition of all the Law classes attached to the Calcutta Colleges. The effect of this recommendation will be the collapse of the unaided colleges and the abolition of their Arts Departments; for it is the surplus fund of the Law classes which supports the Departments in Arts.

With reference to another recommendation of the Commission, that of raising the rate of fees for College education, the *Bengalee* says that, in view of the poverty of the *Bhadra log* classes, the bulk of them will be debarred from giving their sons the benefit of high education. "The proposal is calculated to stunt our intellectual growth and to repress our intellectual and moral aspirations; and such being the case, there ought to go forth a universal chorus of condemnation from all sections of our community. It is no answer to our objection to say that these poor students are likely to get scholarships. They may or they may not. Kristo Dass Pal and Rajendra Lala Mittra did not. There are many men who owe every thing to education, but who show the stuff of which they are made later in life."

BENGALEE,
13th July 1902.

970. Reverting to the next recommendation of the Universities Commission, that of closing all second grade colleges which cannot be raised to the status of first grade

Ibid.

colleges, the *Bengalee* says:—

What with the raising of the college-fees and the closing of the second grade colleges, high English education will have become a boon, accessible only to the richer few, and the great middle class of the country, who form the back-bone of the community, will stand outside the consecrated pale of the wealthy and the aristocratic, who alone will receive the culture and the enlightenment of the West. One by one the great blessings which British rule has conferred upon the country are being slowly withdrawn. Local Self-Government in Calcutta has become a thing of the past; and now apparently the more serious step is proposed to deprive the middle class of the great boon of high English education. If these are to be the gifts of the neo-Imperialism which is coming into fashion, all that we can say is that we are old-fashioned enough to long for the good old days when there was more of liberalism and less of Imperialism, when fewer words were said and better things were done and when Commissions were rare and beneficent measures were more in evidence.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BEHAR HERALD,
5th July 1902.

971. The *Behar Herald* expresses the opinion that the nature of the control exercised by District Officers and Divisional Commissioners over Municipal affairs is accountable for the failure of Local Self-Government, and it asks that a limit be put on this control.

Municipal assessment in
Calcutta.

972. The *Bengalee* hopes Mr. Greer will observe the intensity of feeling roused by the enhancement of the assessments. Although the feeling is strong, yet the agitation has been conducted with moderation. The rate-payers have had recourse to two methods—appeal to the Chairman for tempering

justice with mercy, and constitutional protest before the Vice-Chairman at the time of hearing objections through their own Associations.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

973. The *Bengalee* calls attention to the great overcrowding that takes place in the trains on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway owing to the rush of passengers to Puri for the *Rath Jatra*. The Railway authorities have made no adequate provision to meet the emergency, with the result that a goodly number of passengers are left behind, while those that manage to get into the compartments are huddled together like so many heads of cattle. It hopes that the Railway authorities will be mindful of the safety and convenience of passengers and make such arrangements as will adequately meet the present requirements. Any negligence on this score is bound to be fraught with serious consequences.

974. The *Bengalee* complains that the Permanent-way Inspector has disallowed the use by the daily passengers of gate No. 7 at Seoraphuli on the East Indian Railway, and on the 8th instant ordered his men to beat and arrest a respectable passenger who was coming by the line. It desires that this zealous and officious railway employé be brought to his bearings.

The Government of India and Railway grievance.

975. The *Bengalee* is grateful to Lord Curzon for the orders passed with regard to the grievances of 3rd class railway passengers.

BENGALEE,
7th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
11th July 1902.

BENGALEE,
13th July 1902.

976. In the course of a lengthy article on the prospects presented to Muhammadans of entering Government service, the *Moslem Chronicle* says:—

Forty years ago, the complaint was from the Government that it could not bestow preferments on Muhammadans because they were not educated, because they were not graduates. Twenty years after, the complaint is from the Muhammadans that Muhammadan graduates cannot make a living and have to battle between good luck and self-exertions to secure influence and recommendation to get in. For they are now told not that they are not graduates, but that they must all come through the gang-way of competition. It is a sad irony of fate. Many, unhappily, too many are the cases we know of men who are begging from door to door. A young Moslem, who passed the Entrance examination, after hanging about the portals of every Government office, disappointed and failed to secure a berth—because those who were already in it were tied by the kinship of *Shajatism*—at last, to save himself from the pangs of hunger settled himself as a vendor of *sherbet* in Harrison Road. He can be seen to-day doling out glasses of it to the pedestrian and cursing the day when his parents first sent him to school. And yet Lord Curzon would tell us that he hates to see us advancing by “artificial ropes and pulleys.”

977. Referring to the conclusion of the case of assault brought before the Police Magistrate of Alipore by an Indian against a European assistant of Messrs. Ralli Brothers, the *Bengalee* remarks:—

It would be interesting to know whether the Police Magistrate of Alipore is in the habit of insisting upon all cases of petty assault that might be brought in his Court being amicably settled, or reserves the procedure adopted by him on the present occasion only for cases in which Europeans figure as the accused and the complainants are Indians.

978. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* alleges that the Mussalmans having raised objections, Mr. MacLeod, Magistrate of Cuddapah, in the Madras Presidency, ordered the Hindus to stop their *bhajana*, on the ground that if they persisted in the practice, the Mussalmans would assault them and break their heads. It comments as follows on the incident:—

The rowdyism of the Mussalmans so terrified the Magistrate that he did not hesitate to sacrifice the Hindus. We are, of course, sorry for the Hindus;

BENGALEE,
7th July 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th July 1902.

but they ought to bear in mind that the Mussalmans have done a public service to the country by overawing a Magistrate, so to say. The gain is much more than the loss.

BENGALEE,
12th July 1902.

979. Although in the King's Regulations no distinction is made between natives of the country and European Officers, yet the *Bengalee* finds that the orders regarding military funerals are not always carried out in case of native commissioned or non-commissioned officers, as in the case of Europeans.

BENGALEE,
12th July 1902.

Funerals of Native Military Officers. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sibsagar.

980. A correspondent informs the *Bengalee* that Mr. A. R. Dicks, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Sibsagar, is in the habit of dismissing and fining his subordinates heavily. The journal, on this, desires Mr. Dicks's superior officers to intervene and stay the erring hands of this youthful officer and to tell him that coercion is calculated to impair the efficiency of the service.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
5th July 1902.

981. Adverting to the interpellation in the House of Lords by Lord Stanley of Alderley on the annexation of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad's territories, known as the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, the *Moslem Chronicle* remarks:—

We feel confident that the unfailing sense of justice of the great English nation, when the clear injustice of the contemplated arrangements and the conspicuous undue advantage endeavoured to be taken of His Highness the Nizam's position are once brought home to their minds, would not tolerate that a matter so vitally affecting the interests of a great question as the semi-compulsory cessation of the Berars—should be hushed up or stifled. We are afraid the Berars question would leave a legacy to which British statesmen in the future would scarcely dare to look bravely in the face. Scanned and judged from every view-point, it will ever loom before the eye as the shibboleth of the fear of the Native States. It will attach an odium to the hitherto spotless and most cordial relation between the Government of India on the one side and the Native Principalities on the other. Cautious, watchful and discerning as Lord Curzon has justly been regarded, we fear that in this instance His Excellency has scarcely been able to bestow that cool and calm attention which the importance and gravity of the subject would otherwise require. We hope His Excellency would rise above the sickening and insidious traditions of the Foreign Office, and that His Excellency's high and fair name, in Indian administration, would not be tarnished by inclining his high personal weight in favour of an arrangement which cannot but evoke the most intense disapprobation in Native India.

TIMES,
9th July 1902.

982. Referring to the comments of the *Times* on the loyalty of the Indian Princes and the change in the relations between the Paramount Power and the Native States, the *Bengalee* says that the emphatic recognition of the loyalty of the Native Princes by the most influential organ of English opinion in the Empire is no doubt a very gratifying fact. It will please and conciliate as far as words can please.

But something more is needed—the practical and definite recognition of the loyalty of the Indian Princes by some act of Imperial magnanimity, which will proclaim to the world the death of the old *regime* and the birth of the new—the inauguration of an era marked by trust and confidence in the Native Princes and by even stronger devotion on the part of the Native Princes to the Paramount Power. "It is in this view," it adds, "that we have so often urged upon the Government the supreme importance of forming an Advisory Board of Native Princes to counsel and advise the Government on all matters affecting the relations between the Paramount Power and the Native States. It would be a fitting recognition of the loyalty of the great Feudatories of the Empire—it would stimulate the devotion to the British connection to enhance their self-respect and form the cement of Imperial rule in India."

983. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* relates a story of an Indian Prince who had arranged to have a meeting at which Mrs. Besant was to deliver a lecture when he was requested by his Political Agent to abandon the meeting.

Indian Princes and their Political Agents. Fearing the public humiliation which compliance with this request involved, the Prince begged the Agent to reconsider and recall his request, but the officer was inexorable. The Prince, however, did not yield, with the result that "serious allegations against the Prince were immediately forthcoming. We are sorry to say that some of the politicals are only half-educated men and a few exceedingly mean. But does meanness suit those who are in charge of sovereign Princes?"

AMRITA BAZAR
Patrika,
13th July 1902.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

984. While allowing the Hindus free and unfettered exercise of religious liberty, the *Moslem Chronicle* asks if such liberties as

The Sivaji celebrations and their effects. those indulged by them on the occasion of the Sivaji celebrations in Calcutta might not degenerate into dangerous political weapons. The creed of Sivaji, it says, is nothing but a burning and inviolate hatred of all but Hindus. The revival of that feeling is both dangerous and undesirable, and already the *Chronicle* notices in the plays enacted at the *Classic Theatre* and the *Aurora*, the tendency to feed the taste for hatred and vilification of Muhammadans.

MOSLEM CHRONICLE,
5th July 1902.

985. The *Hindu Patriot* recommends that the lawyers of Calcutta should follow the example of those of Bombay and establish an incorporated Law Society to safeguard the reputation of the profession.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
9th July 1902.

986. Reverting to the payment by India of the expenses connected with India and the Coronation expenses.

BENGALEE,
12th July 1902.

The expense is not heavy, but it is more a question of principle, and we cannot but notice with regret the invidious and irritating distinction made between India and the Colonies in this matter, for while the Colonies had not to pay a farthing towards the expenses incurred in entertaining their representatives in England, the Indian Exchequer is saddled with the cost of the India Office function and the entertainment of the Indian guests. It is an instance of melancholy meanness which is not creditable to a great Imperial administration.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 19th July 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,

Asst. to the Inspr.-General of Police, L. P.

